



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

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WIFA Chairman Owens Announces \$966,600 Low-Interest Loan to Flowing Wells Irrigation District in Tucson for Arsenic Treatment Plant

PHOENIX – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) Chairman Steve Owens announced today that WIFA has awarded a \$966,600 low-interest loan to Flowing Wells Irrigation District (FWID) located on the northwest side of Tucson. The loan will enable FWID to build a new arsenic treatment plant to meet the federal statute for arsenic in drinking water that went into affect in January of this year.

Two of ten wells (Wells 70 and 75) FWID operates within its distribution system have elevated arsenic concentrations.

“Water systems in Arizona face challenges meeting the new federal arsenic standard because arsenic occurs naturally in soil and groundwater in our state,” said Chairman Owens, who is also Director of the Department of Environmental Quality. “We have been working hard to help Flowing Wells and other districts meet the new federal standard.”

The loan funds will be used to construct a treatment plant using adsorptive iron-based media in conjunction with a granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment system to remove arsenic from the water. The arsenic treatment facilities will be built at Well 75 which has a 1.4 million-gallon reservoir, booster pumping facilities at the site, and sufficient land available for installing new facilities.

Since the promulgation of the federal arsenic rule, WIFA has awarded 12 drinking water systems with over \$15.8 million in low-interest loan funds. WIFA also awarded 18 drinking water systems about \$390,311 in grant funds.

WIFA has been actively involved in initiatives meet the new federal arsenic standard for water systems. WIFA streamlined its loan review process allowing expeditious review of arsenic-related projects as well as provided technical assistance to water systems.

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ABOUT THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. WIFA's funds are capitalized by contributions from the US Congress and the state of Arizona. As a leader in water infrastructure finance, WIFA has become a premier financial institution both in Arizona and nationally. Visit WIFA's Web site at www.azwifa.gov.